

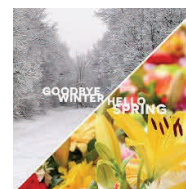


Southern AIR

President's Message

By Mary Harrington

Now that our chilly – no, make that downright COLD – winter is behind us, it's time to begin thinking about the 2014 SAIR conference in sunny Destin, Florida. The Board met there in January for their Planning Meeting and fell in love with the location. The conference hotel is right on the beach which features incredible white sand and emerald water. I encourage you to mark your calendars now and make plans to attend. This year's program chair, Sara Gravit of Wake Forest, is super organized, energetic, and creative, so I'm confident she'll put together an awesome conference.



Speaking of awesome conferences ... I hope to see many of you at the AIR Conference in Orlando May 26-30. The schedule is new this year, with workshops Monday and Tuesday, concurrent sessions Wednesday through Friday morning, and more workshops Friday afternoon. I will send an email to you when I find out the schedule for our SAIR SIG.

Be on the lookout for the Call for Nominations email you should receive very shortly from Past President Kathleen Morley. Help her put together a fantastic slate of candidates by recommending a colleague or yourself to serve on the SAIR Board. I've had the privilege of serving twice on the Board and can assure you it is one of the most rewarding and enriching professional development opportunities I've experienced.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you know that I'm entering what I'm calling my "phased retirement plan." I will step down as Director of Institutional Research and Assessment effective June 30, 2014. (Please consider applying!) However, I will still work part-time at Ole Miss on IR/IE/SACS-related projects and, of course, will remain active in SAIR, AIR and MAIR. I'm definitely looking forward to having more free time to spend with friends and family – and on SAIR activities!



My best wishes to you all for a lovely spring and restful summer. Hope to see you all in Destin!

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SAIR

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

<http://www.sair.org>

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University of Mississippi

Vice President

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Matthew Campbell
Auburn University

Mitzy Johnson
Mississippi State University

Andrew Luna
University of North Alabama

Lee Sanders
Southern Arkansas University Tech

Please submit information for the
next Southern AIR to Lisa Lord at
lisa@louisiana.edu by May 15.

**2014 AIR Forum**

May 27-30
Orlando, Florida

The Association for Institutional Research invites you to attend the 2014 Forum in Orlando, Florida May 27-30.

The AIR Forum is the world's largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields. This annual four-day conference includes more than 400 presentations by more than 600 presenters representing all sectors of higher education. There are also tremendous opportunities to network with more than 1,800 friends and colleagues and an exhibit hall featuring the latest tools and resources to support data use for decision making.

AIR is pleased to announce that the opening keynote speaker is Lee LeFever, author of *The Art of Explanation* and founder of Common Craft, producers of popular educational videos. His groundbreaking work helps professionals improve their explanation skills and start solving explanation problems. If you could use help making your ideas and recommendations easier to understand, you will not want to miss this keynote address on Wednesday, May 28.

The Forum's extensive education opportunities include 25 pre- and post-conference workshops on a wide variety of topics, including practical skills and techniques (additional fee required).

With convenient transportation to Orlando and our lowest hotel rates in years, the 2014 Forum will be a cost-effective investment in exceptional educational and networking experiences.

We hope you will join us May 27-30 for what should be a record-setting conference. For more information, visit the 2014 Forum website: <http://forum.airweb.org/2014/>

See you in Orlando!

AIR Elections

Congratulations to the SAIR members recently elected as Member-at-Large on the AIR Board!

Michelle Hall (Southeastern Louisiana University)
Meihua Zhai (University of Georgia)

Also, congratulations to SAIR Dinosaur Debbie Dailey
at Delaware Valley College!

These members will serve a three-year term of service and join current AIR President and SAIR Dinosaur Sandi Bramblett (Georgia Institute of Technology) on the AIR Board.



2014 Conference Information

October 4-7, 2014
Destin, Florida



I am thrilled to encourage each of you to join your fellow SAIR colleagues in Destin, Florida for our annual SAIR Conference. I am excited to share with you the official link to the 2014 SAIR Conference, <http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/>. Please bookmark this site and check it often to stay abreast of the latest conference information between now and October.

October 4-7, 2014 we will be busy “Navigating Waves of Change into Oceans of Success” at our beachfront location. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful resort as our headquarters for this year’s gathering. In previous communications, I have shared information about The Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa. I can speak first hand to the beauty of the location as the SAIR Board was on-site January 24-26 for the Conference Planning Meeting and Board Meeting.

- The facilities at this resort are newly renovated, and I am confident you will all enjoy everything about this resort.
- The emerald green waters of the Gulf Coast are going to be visible from each of your well-appointed guest rooms for a most reasonable rate of \$149 per night. This rate includes complimentary internet in the guest rooms and lobby lounge area, 15% discount on spa treatments, complimentary parking, and complimentary transportation to any facility on the Sandestin Resort.
- The hotel registration site is available at <http://www.sandestinbeachhilton.com/booknow>. The Group Code for our conference is **SAR**. If I give all of the beauty secrets of the resort away in this article, I’m afraid you’ll come to the conference and forget why we are there.

*Please note the
Group Code for
the hotel is
SAR.*

Also included in this newsletter is the Call for Proposals. Be sure to review this information and contribute to our annual conference by submitting at least one proposal. Every single member of SAIR has valuable experiences worthy of sharing in either a concurrent session, roundtable or workshop format. As the theme of our conference indicates, our profession requires us to be successful in an ever changing environment. So, I urge each of you to consider sharing with your colleagues.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the conference. Your SAIR Board members are very busy working to make the annual gathering a worthwhile and memorable experience.

My Best,
Sara Gravitt
2014 SAIR VP and Program Chair



SAIR 41st Annual Conference
October 4-7, 2014
Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa
Destin, Florida

Proposal Due Date:
April 21, 2014

Call for Proposals

We have an outstanding opportunity to participate in an exciting learning experience by exchanging ideas, brainstorming with our colleagues, and furthering the endeavors of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning. The proposal site is available, <http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/proposal>.

Proposals addressing all areas relevant to the practice of institutional research, accreditation, assessment, community colleges, planning and technology are solicited. Topics reflecting the conference theme are encouraged, but all relevant subjects are welcomed. The following types of sessions will be offered.

The **Accreditation Track** welcomes proposals that address the revised principles of accreditation adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our members will gain valuable insights into how your knowledge and expertise informs this important process of external peer review.

The **Assessment Track** addresses authentic approaches to evaluating administrative, support and learning outcomes. Whether reflecting upon insights gained from national surveys or highlighting improved learning outcomes based upon locally developed assessment measures, these sessions will highlight best practices.

The **Community College Track** is a growing area of interest at SAIR. The size and diversity of the community college sector requires us to learn as much as we can about these institutions.

The **Institutional Research Track** addresses the effective and efficient collection of data to inform college and university decisions. In addition to data collection, sessions may also address data analysis and dissemination to various stakeholders.

The **Planning Track** welcomes proposals that address how legitimate planning processes shape the agenda for your institution.

The **Technology Track** covers research and presentations which feature technology to facilitate our work. Sessions in this track demonstrate creative and innovative uses of information technology to support institutional research and effectiveness activities.

continued on next page...

Proposal Submission Site:

<http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/proposal>

Presentation Formats

Papers (45 minutes)

Papers should describe a research study or an effective process or technique (quantitative or qualitative), present a theoretical approach to a problem or issue, or review the literature on a topic of interest to institutional researchers.

Panels (45 minutes)

Panel presentations involve three or more individuals who present different perspectives on a common theme or topic. The proposal should describe the common theme/topic and the major points of discussion. The proposal should also describe how each panelist contributes a different perspective to the session.

Roundtables (60 minutes)

Roundtable sessions occur during lunch on Monday and offer an opportunity for a convener to give a brief overview of a relevant topic that leads to an engaged and lively discussion. A proposal should include a description of the topic and the convener's relevant expertise and experience.

Software Demonstrations (45 minutes)

Presentations should demonstrate one or more software packages or programming solutions that are applicable to the work of institutional researchers. The proposal should describe the relative strengths, weaknesses, and special features of the product or solution. The presenter should also discuss the hardware required for the software/solution. If Internet access is needed, please request such access during the proposal process.

Workshare (45 minutes)

Workshare sessions provide an opportunity to share professional work products, effective practices, innovative applications, and creative solutions that are not ready to be presented as a paper. A proposal should include a description of the topic and its applicability to other institutions.

Pre-Conference Workshops (3 or 5 hours)

Workshops provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion and instruction on a single topic. Demonstrations, exercises, group activities, and other methods of experiential learning are appropriate and desirable. Proposals should outline the specific objectives of the workshop, the intended audience (novice or experienced researchers, prerequisite knowledge/skills, etc.), the instructional techniques and the qualifications of the instructor(s). Proposals also must include an estimate of the reimbursable expenses and the minimum and maximum number of participants allowed. Workshops occur on Saturday and Sunday, both at the hotel and off-site. Workshops requiring a computer lab will be held at Northwest Florida State College (transportation provided).

Proposal Submission Instructions

- An abstract of no more than 100 words is required. Although some editing may occur, most abstracts of accepted presentations will appear verbatim in the conference program.
- A narrative representing the body of the proposal should cover the following: a) significance of timeliness of the topic; b) historical, theoretical, and/or conceptual framework; c) method of inquiry; d) analytical method; and e) intended audience.
- No reference to authors or their institutions should appear in the body of the proposal.
- SAIR will notify primary presenters in late May about the status of their proposals.
- Equipment: Each session room will have a computer projector and a screen. Please submit all requests and justifications for other equipment during the proposal process. SAIR will make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests. For additional information, please contact Program Chair Sara Gravitt, gravitsr@wfu.edu.

Important Information for all Participants

All participants are expected to be paid registrants at the conference, and those submitting proposals acknowledge their intent to register by submitting a proposal. Honoraria are not paid to presenters, although reasonable expenses are reimbursed for pre-conference workshop materials.

The conference program will offer workshops, paper, panel, roundtable, software demonstration and special interest group sessions as well as ample opportunity for interaction. Plan to attend the conference and bring your dynamic ideas for

“Navigating Waves of Change into Oceans of Success.”

Workshops

By Matthew Campbell, Member-at-Large

SAIR's Pre-Conference Workshops take place on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the official start of the annual conference. Workshops are three or five hours long and are designed to provide in-depth training beyond what is possible during a concurrent session. Such an extended schedule allows attendees to become fully immersed in a subject, not only learning of new skills but returning to campus a practitioner of them.



We are looking for workshops covering all facets of institutional research like accreditation and its associated processes such as the Fifth-Year Interim Report or the QEP, program review, strategic planning, benchmarking, faculty productivity, and campus issues such as leadership change or physical space management.

We are also looking for workshops to provide technical training on software packages. Beginner and advanced sessions on stalwarts like SAS, SPSS, or Microsoft's Excel and Access are always needed but so too are sessions on newer programs like R or Prezi. And let us not forget about web development; are there any Dreamweaver or CoffeeCup power-users out there ready to share their secrets with the rest of us?



To submit a workshop proposal, please go to <http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/proposal.php> and select the Pre-Conference Workshop item in the Session format. If you have any questions, please email Matthew Campbell at matthew@auburn.edu

SAIR Members: to suggest a topic for a workshop YOU would like to attend, please email matthew@auburn.edu!

Call for Nominations — Coming Soon

By Kathleen Morley, 2012-2013 President

The site for the nominations for SAIR's 2014-15 officers will be open in mid-March. This year we will be electing the following positions:

- Vice President (Program Chair for the 2015 conference in Savannah)
- Secretary
- Member at Large (2)
- Nominating Committee (5)



Don't know why you should consider running for a SAIR office? Here are a few reasons to consider:







Make professional connections/enhance professional network	Make a difference
Learn new skills/professional development	Continue the SAIR tradition or start a new one
Give Back. Help SAIR.	Have fun!!

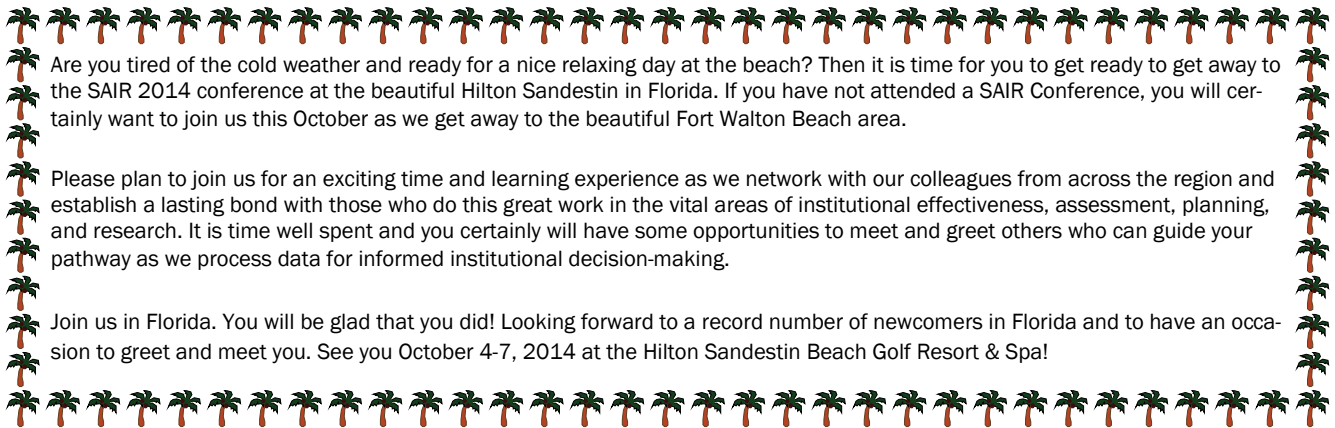
If you have questions about the positions, please do not hesitate to contact me (Kathleen_Morley@baylor.edu) or one of the 2013-14 nominating committee members:

- Bernie Braun (bbraun@lsu.edu)
- Rick Burnette (rburnette@admin.fsu.edu)
- Daina Henry (dainapaupe@cox.net)

- Jana Marak (Jana_Marak@baylor.edu)
- Jamie Redwine (JRedwine@wlu.edu)

Newcomers and Travel Grants

By Lee Sanders, Member-at-Large



Are you tired of the cold weather and ready for a nice relaxing day at the beach? Then it is time for you to get ready to get away to the SAIR 2014 conference at the beautiful Hilton Sandestin in Florida. If you have not attended a SAIR Conference, you will certainly want to join us this October as we get away to the beautiful Fort Walton Beach area.

Please plan to join us for an exciting time and learning experience as we network with our colleagues from across the region and establish a lasting bond with those who do this great work in the vital areas of institutional effectiveness, assessment, planning, and research. It is time well spent and you certainly will have some opportunities to meet and greet others who can guide your pathway as we process data for informed institutional decision-making.

Join us in Florida. You will be glad that you did! Looking forward to a record number of newcomers in Florida and to have an occasion to greet and meet you. See you October 4-7, 2014 at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa!

APPLY FOR A SAIR 2014 CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT!

Perhaps the money is tight in your travel budget and you need assistance in attending the conference? Then, you need to apply for one of our travel grants which will cover your conference registration and give you an additional \$300 to cover your expenses at the conference.

Please go to the SAIR website at http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/travel_grant.php to begin the process of completing your travel grant application today. Hurry, because the deadline will be here before you know it – **May 30** is just around the corner and you definitely want to get your application in now.



We award three types of travel grants and you will find information on how to apply along with all deadlines on our conference website at http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/travel_grant.php.

SAIR Travel Grant

The 2014 Conference Travel Grants (including the Bill Fendley Travel Grant) will be awarded to eight members in order to promote professional development among institutional research professionals. These awards are available to both active members and newcomers (individuals who will become new members at the 2014 Annual Conference). Priority will go to applicants who have not received a travel grant from SAIR within the past two years. All grants are \$300, plus a waiver of conference registration fees (an additional \$265 value).

Bill Fendley Travel Grant

The Bill Fendley Travel Grant will be awarded to a deserving member whose first SAIR was in 2013 in Memphis. Grants are \$300 plus a waiver of conference registration fees.

Larry Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant

Established in 2005 to honor past SAIR president and executive board member Larry G. Jones, the travel grant will be awarded annually to a deserving graduate student who meets the award criteria outlined below. A total of \$500 will be awarded to the successful applicant to defray travel expenses associated with the annual SAIR conference and the conference registration fee will be waived as well.

The applicant for the Larry G. Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant must be currently enrolled as a graduate student at either the Master's or PhD level at an accredited institution of higher education. Enrollment must be verified via letter from the registrar of the home institution. The applicant must also have submitted a scholarly paper which has been accepted for presentation at the annual SAIR conference.

Instructions for applying for the Jones Graduate Student Travel Grant can be found at: http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/travel_grant.php.

For more information on Travel Grants, please contact Lee Sanders at lsanders@sauech.edu.

Deadline for Travel Grant
Applications: **May 30, 2014**

Notes from the Treasurer

By Paige Borden

Updated Refund Policy:

During the Winter 2014 SAIR Conference Planning and Board meeting, the board voted to alter the conference refund policy. The new language indicates the cancellation request procedure, timeline, fee, and restrictions.

Conference Refund Policy: Conference registration cancellations must be submitted to the SAIR Treasurer by two weeks prior to conference. There will be a processing fee of \$50 for all cancellations. Substitutions can be made at no charge. Cancellations after the deadline will not be eligible for refund or forgiveness of amount due.

Merchant Account Services Fees:

SAIR paid \$5,344 to our credit card processor in fees during 2013. These service fees represented just over 4% of the total 2013 conference expenses. While SAIR will continue to accept credit card payments, please consider a shift from institutional credit cards to checks wherever possible.

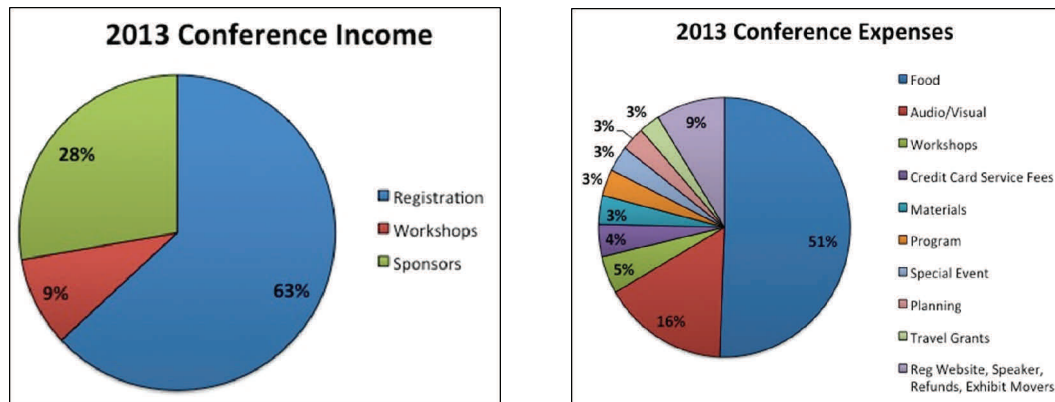


Contact the Treasurer:

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding SAIR financial information, membership, or refund payments. Email is fastest, paige.borden@ucf.edu but if you need a phone or mailing address, see the information below:

Dr. Paige Borden, SAIR Treasurer
UCF Institutional Knowledge Mgmt
12424 Research Pkwy, Ste 215
Orlando, FL 32826
(407) 823-5061

Breakdown of 2013 Conference Income Sources and Expenses:



Renew your SAIR Membership today!

If you missed the conference last fall in Memphis and have not renewed your membership, it's not too late!

The membership form is on the SAIR webpage at <http://www.sair.org/Membership/Membership.php> or click the Renew button to the right.

Send your membership form and the \$25 membership fee to SAIR Treasurer Paige Borden.



Exhibitor Opportunities

By Mitzy Johnson, Member-at-Large

What a great opportunity Sponsors/Exhibitors will have with a fully open dedicated area at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa awaiting them to share their products and services to the SAIR attendees! SAIR invites Sponsors and Exhibitors to become involved in our upcoming annual conference.

Currently, we already have **Platinum level** commitment from **Digital Measures**, **Gold level** commitments from **Educational Testing Services (ETS)**, **U.S News**, **Nuventive**, and **Tk20**. **SAS** has committed to sponsorship of our conference tote bags and **Rapid Insight** has committed to sponsor our name tag/badge holders. We thank all Sponsors/Exhibitors in advance for their willingness to support our conference and organization.

Benefits of being an Exhibitor include: Fully dedicated exhibit area and opportunity times such as opening reception, various sponsorship levels to meet the company's needs (see table below), and brand awareness opportunities to showcase their products.

SAIR members, if anyone knows of an exhibitor that may be interested in participating in our 2014 SAIR Conference, please share the information below or exhibitors may contact SAIR Board Member, Mitzy Johnson by email at mitzy.johnson@oire.msstate.edu or call 662-325-6318.

SAIR Conference – Destin, FL 2014 Sponsor/Exhibitor Opportunities

	\$4,000 Platinum Sponsor <i>(limit of 4)</i>	\$3,000 Gold Sponsor	\$2,000 Silver Sponsor	\$1,000 Exhibitor
Booth Location	16 x 10 ft (double) in prime location	8 x 10 ft in high traffic area	8 x 10 ft in designated area	8 x 10 ft In designated area
Complimentary Conference Registrations	4	3	2	1
SAIR Membership	1	1	1	1
Acknowledgement in Conference Program	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hyperlink on Conference Website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Newcomer's Reception	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advertisement in Conference Program	Full-page	Half-page	Quarter-page	
Sponsorship of Events	✓	✓	✓	
Presentation during Conference	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session	Luncheon Roundtable	
Mailing List of Attendees (pre-conference)	✓	✓		

Other Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Brand Awareness (i.e., Bag Stuffers) - \$200 per piece
- Program-at-a-Glance Sponsorship - \$500
- Water Bottles – at cost

Sponsor/Exhibitor Contact:

Mitzy Johnson
mitzy.johnson@oire.msstate.edu
 (662) 325-6318

Call for Nominations for SAIR Awards

By Andrew Luna, Member-at-Large

SAIR would like to encourage you to nominate an outstanding member for consideration for the following awards:

James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award

This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to SAIR over an extended period of time. Nominees must have been a SAIR member for over five years and cannot be a member of, or a candidate for, the Board of Directors during the year nominated. In addition, two of the following criteria must be met:

- * have been a member of the Board of Directors or a chair of a conference, or a presidentially appointed committee;
- * have been an officer of, or a recognized leader in, the establishment of a state or special interest group which has been associated with SAIR; and/or
- * have made a professional contribution to SAIR by being actively involved in a combination of the following: presented contributed papers at the SAIR conference; organized, offered, or acted as a primary participant in workshops at the SAIR conference or workshops sponsored by an affiliated SAIR organization or group; contributed in some other specific significant way that has advanced the professionalism of SAIR.

Distinguished Member Award

Distinguished Membership may be awarded to members or former members who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research. This award is a meaningful recognition of significant effort in the field of institutional research. The award is for the lifetime of the individual. (Persons retiring from active service in institutional research may be recognized through the award of emeritus membership rather than distinguished Membership). A member or former member nominated for Distinguished Membership should meet the following qualifications:

- * has been an active and contributing member of SAIR
- * has contributed substantially to the field of institutional research over an extended period of time, either in the practice of institutional research or in a supporting role (e.g. faculty, President)
- * has influenced higher education policies and practices through work or research.

Special Recognition Unsung Hero Award

This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member to SAIR and the field of institutional research and planning in the broadest sense. This award honors individuals whose effort and initiative might not otherwise receive public recognition.

The types of effort to be considered include management assignments, innovative projects or ideas, development of new initiatives, or other ongoing service to SAIR, other than as an elected officer. [For purposes of this award, "officer" is defined as President, Secretary, or Treasurer.] Officers are excluded in order to encourage initiative in fields other than political office and to ensure that the award does not become an appreciation award for past presidents. All members of SAIR are eligible to receive the award with the following exceptions: a member who has previously won the award; officers of SAIR shall not be eligible for five years after leaving their last office.

SAIR Awards Nomination Process

Send an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word format by **August 15, 2014** to Andrew Luna at alluna@una.edu. Please put "SAIR AWARD NOMINATION" in the subject line of the email. The attachment should include the following sections:

SAIR Award Name:

Nominator information: name, current position, company or institutional affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email.

Nominee information: name, current position, company or institutional affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email.

Has this nomination been discussed with the nominee? (Yes or No)

Provide a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishments in reference to the award for which they are nominated;

Has this achievement been the basis of any other previously awarded SAIR Award? If yes, how does this nomination differ from previous body of work honored?

Provide a narrative summary of **1,000 words or less**. The narrative should evaluate the nominee's accomplishments and a specific identification of the work to be recognized; explain why the nominee is being recommended for this award with regard to the stated purposes of the award; if the nominee has received another SAIR Award within the last five years, specifically describe why this nomination is appropriate; if the nominee has received a previous SAIR Award, describe why this award nomination does not cover the basis for a previous award; analyze patents if cited; and if the nominee is not the sole author of works, specify the contribution of the nominee. Questions regarding the awards process should be directed to Andrew Luna via e-mail, alluna@una.edu, or phone (256) 765-4221.



Conference Awards

Best Fact Book, Best Mini-Fact Book, Best Electronic Fact Book, and Best IR Website will be given out during the awards breakfast at the conference in Destin. Fact Books and Mini-Fact Books will be collected and judged during our annual conference. Submissions and judging for the Best Electronic Fact Book and Best IR Website will take place prior to the conference.

To submit your electronic fact book or IR website for consideration, please contact Andrew Luna, alluna@una.edu, by **June 13, 2014**.



Ground Transportation



For those of you flying into the Florida Gulf Coast, we have been fortunate to have very reasonable rates for ground transportation from the variety of airports to the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa. A local transportation company, C2 Airport Shuttle And Car Service, has provided the following rates for our conference travel needs:

1. From Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS), the price will \$ 15.00 per person (each way) with no minimum. (Closest Airport 35 minutes)
2. From Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP), the price is \$ 35.00 per person (each way) with a minimum of \$ 60.00 per transfer. (1 hour transfer each way)
3. From Pensacola Airport (PNS), the flat rate will be \$ 110.00 per transfer (each way) for up to 4 people. (This airport can take up to 2 hours per transfer)

Once air travel plans are confirmed, please contact C2 Airport Shuttle and Car Service, <http://www.c2shuttleandtaxi.com/>, 850-225-3909 to make a reservation for pick up. Reservations can also be made to this email address: ccook71@cox.net. You will be provided a confirmation number as well as instructions on where to meet when you arrive, where you will be greeted with signage.



In Memoriam

By Kathleen Morley

Long-time SAIR member Fletcher Carter passed away Saturday, February 22 at the age of 84. A memorial service was held for Fletcher on February 26.

Fletcher was the Director of Institutional Research at Radford University for over 30 years. After his retirement, he worked with the Roanoke City Schools and Radford City Library Board. Fletcher and his beloved wife, Edie, were charter members of SAIR. Even after his retirement, Fletcher remained an active member by presenting at the annual SAIR conference.

I always enjoyed watching the interaction between Fletcher and Edie. The sight of them holding hands and always at each other's side never failed to make me smile. My thoughts and prayers are with Edie during this difficult time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN THE SAIR REGION

State Organizations Upcoming Conferences*

ALAIR: April 3-4 in Huntsville

GAIRPAQ: April 23 at Middle Georgia State College in Macon

LAIR: July 16-17 at Delgado Community College in New Orleans

MAIR: April 10-11 in Vicksburg

NCAIR: March 24-26 in Concord

OKAIR: April 4 at the University of Oklahoma

VAMAP: April 25 at the College of William and Mary

* dates as reported on state organization website



SAIR 2015

SAVANNAH, GA

Hyatt Regency Hotel

October 10-13, 2015



SAIR 2016

CHARLOTTE, NC

Westin Charlotte

October 8-11, 2016

SAIR Affiliates

The ALAIR conference is being hosted by J.F. Drake State Technical College at the Westin Hotel in Huntsville, on April 3-4. Our special event is being held at the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.

For more conference information as well as the spring newsletter, please go to: <http://www.alair.org/>



The annual LAIR conference will be held July 16-17 at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. This year's theme is "Data Drives Decisions". More information can be found on the LAIR website at <http://www2.southeastern.edu/orgs/LAIR/>



Mississippi Association for Institutional Research

The Mississippi Association for Institutional Research conference will hold its annual meeting in the historic town of Vicksburg, Mississippi, at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The conference provides valuable opportunities for institutional research professionals to enhance their knowledge and to share their own experiences and practices.

For more information, visit the [conference website](#). Questions about the conference can be directed to Carolyn Warren, MAIR Vice President at 662-562-3927 or cwarren@northwestms.edu.

The Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR) held its annual conference in Addison, Texas on February 19-21 with a record attendance of 279 members! Newly elected officers Mary Barton (Vice President/President-Elect), Lisa Haynes (Secretary) and David Brown (Member at Large for Professional Development) join Lincoln Holmes (President), Tracy Stegmair (Treasurer), Faron Kincheloe (Member at Large for Technology) and Susan Thompson (Immediate Past President) on TAIR's Executive Committee. TAIR also elected four Nominating Committee members: Tom Corll, Sue Herring, Carol LaRue, and Martha Oburn.

Plans are now underway for TAIR's annual Summer Workshop, scheduled for Friday, August 1 in Round Rock. More information will be posted on TAIR's website at <http://www.texas-air.org/> soon!



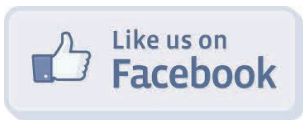
North Carolina Association for Institutional Research

NCAIR's 41st Annual Conference is March 24-26, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Charlotte-Concord Golf Resort & Spa. Our program chair and the planning committee are organizing what will be an excellent event. The theme is "Defining and Refining IR" with a panel of senior leaders in higher education discussing the status of competency-based learning and ways it will impact how we do business and how we assess progress. Join us for great food, refreshments, and over 18 concurrent sessions. I hope that you are making plans to attend. Please visit our website for more information - <http://www.ncair.net/conferences/2014-ncair-conference-concord-charlotte-nc/>

A special AIR-sponsored, IPEDS workshop is being offered in conjunction with the conference. This new IPEDS workshop will take place on Monday, March 24th. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity.

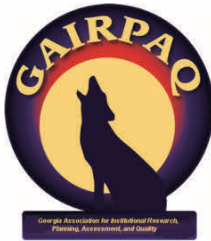
"Like" SAIR on Facebook

"Like" the SAIR Facebook page to receive conference news, along with other SAIR notices. We hope you will use this page to post any questions or feedback concerning the events of the Annual Conference.



To "like" SAIR on Facebook, please go to: <http://www.facebook.com/Southern.Association.for.Institutional.Research> or click the Facebook button above.

SAIR Affiliates continued....



The Georgia Association of Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Quality (GAIRPAQ) will be holding its annual conference April 23, 2014, at Middle Georgia State College in Macon, GA, and is seeking proposals for conference presentations. Our conference theme is **"The Art and Science of Institutional Research,"** with Dr. Gerald McLaughlin, coauthor of *The Handbook of Institutional Research*, as our keynote speaker.

Our job descriptions are varied. Some are broad and deep; others highly specialized. Few of us had ever heard of IR when we began our own higher education journeys. Regardless of our original academic discipline, we all share an interest and ability (and perhaps even a need) for analysis and reflection. We understand "big data" without losing sight of the big picture. Our core competencies include not only the obvious technical skills, but the knowledge and experience we bring to the table about our own institutions and the world of higher education. Whether we are writing code or telling stories, we are educators above all. Business intelligence and statistical software are our tools of the trade, but only in service to the cause of student success.

The deadline for proposal submissions is March 18, 2014. A separate announcement with a link to the online submission form will be forthcoming shortly.

Individual proposals and/or panel discussions that explicitly address the conference theme are encouraged, but we welcome presentations on a broad range of issues and research related to institutional research, planning, and assessment. Past topics have included:

Best Practices in IR
 Emerging Technologies in IR
 Research and Data Management Strategies
 Data Sharing and Presentation Approaches
 Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment Case Studies
 Closing the Loop: Using IR Data for Planning
 Accreditation Issues

Please note that we will have access to an on-campus computer lab, so "hands-on" sessions are most welcome!

The Conference Planning Committee is also interested in your suggestions for invited presentations. If you have recently seen/heard a speaker or panel that you believe would benefit the GAIRPAQ audience, please email Patricia.Gregg@gpc.edu

Looking forward to seeing you in Macon!

SAIR REMINDERS

- **Proposals** are due April 21: <http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/proposal>
- **Travel grant applications** are due May 30: http://www.louisianau.com/sair14/travel_grant.php
- Submit **nominations for awards**: Conference awards are due by June 13 and Membership awards are due by August 15.
- Coming Soon : **Call for Nominations for Elections** and **Pre-Conference Workshop** information.



Save the Date — SAIR 2015

October 10-13, 2015

Savannah, Georgia

By Michael Crowe, Local Arrangements

Visitors cherish their stay in Savannah, the “Hostess City” of the South, the charming original capital of the Georgia colony situated on the Savannah River a few miles from the Atlantic ocean’s barrier island, Tybee.

The Hyatt Regency (<http://savannah.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>), our conference hotel, overlooks the celebrated riverfront in the historic district and is in easy walking distance to myriad fine restaurants, sumptuous tree-lined squares and parks, and luxurious historic sites including ante-bellum churches, the civic center, museums, historic warehouses, and opulent theatres. From your hotel room, you will view one of the busiest container ports in the country as ships of the world glide past your gaze. Within a few miles, Savannah and Hilton Head (SC) together boast 45 excellent public and private golf courses. On the river, the inland waterway, and sea coast are a variety of excursions and activities including porpoise and whale watching, dinner cruises, water taxis, jet skies, and houseboats. Truly, nowhere in America is quite like Savannah, except Savannah!

Average temperature for Savannah in October is a healthy 58 (low) to 78 (high) degrees. Average precipitation for the month is 3.7 inches. Typically a light sweater is ample for evenings outdoors.

For the child in you, interesting diversions range from candy stores on river street to the Oatland Island Wildlife Center; from evening ghost tours to the historic railroad round house; the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and the Civil Rights Museum. Nearby one finds the 18th century Wormsloe plantation and 19th century military forts prominent in the Civil War. Above all, one finds within easy walking distance examples of all domestic and commercial architectural styles from the 17th to 21st century. Old Savannah retains the original 18th century "enlightenment" period grid and park street system layout pioneered by General Oglethorpe in the 1730's.

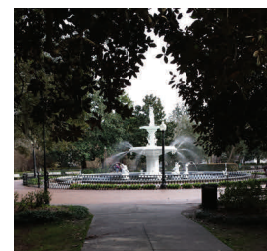
All this provides a charming backdrop for the legendary and unparalleled camaraderie and professional fellowship of SAIR. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for personal growth in many directions. Join us in Savannah in October, 2015!



Hyatt Regency Savannah Water Front



Forsyth Park



Savannah River Front



Savannah Container Shipping

Savannah City Hall



Savannah Roundhouse Railroad